News item captioned "Cleansing Ganga waters a daunting task"

1787. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Cleansing Ganga waters a daunting task" which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 15th July, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cleansing of the Ganga has become a difficult task due to heavy flow of sewage into the river; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and what further steps are being contemplated to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes Sir. The news item related to Ganga Action Plan work at Varanasi.

(b) Studies carried out by the Central Board for the Prevention & Control of Water Pollution, indicate that the discharge of untreated domestic sewage is the major cause of pollution of the river Ganga. Accordingly schemes taken up under Ganga Action Plan in Varanasi are to focus on the interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage. The nature of the problem was known and duly taken into account while framing the schemes.

(c) The programme taken up in Varanasi, consists of schemes for diversion and treatment of sewage, low cost sanitation and improvement of public facilities at the river front. The various schemes taken up at Varanasi are estimated to cost about Rs. 45.77 crores. Till 31st July, 1987, 29 number of schemes at a cost of Rs. 38.12 crores have been sanctioned and are under execution. Two schemes relating to renovation of pumping stations near the ghats and renovation of the pumping plants and sewage farm at Ramnagar at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.06 crores have been completed. Arrangements for monitoring of water quality have also been made at Varanasi to assess the impact of the schemes on river quality.

Proposal to lift export obligations

1788. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI B. L. PANWAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to lift export obligations presently mandatory for all units involving regular outflow of foreign exchange, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what will be the alternative scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not aries.

Waylaying of American missiles meant for Afghan rebels by Pakistan

1789. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media reports regarding Pakistan's attempt to Waylay American missiles meant for the Afghan rebels and if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Yes, Sir. Government keeps a close watch on all such developments which have a bearing on the country's security.